thickness 0.063" between faces 2 and 2^a; width of faces 2 and 2^a 0.166"; and a length of 12". The circular portion of the tongue 3 is desirably of a diameter of 0.300" and the diameter of the corresponding socket is desirably 0.035".

The groove G may be of any desired contour for cooperation with the rib on the platen. It is contemplated that should the materials employed in forming the basic elements 1, 1^a etc. fail to provide a surface which will take the desired indicia, for example, an ink impression, this may be overcome, as illustrated in Fig. 5, by coating the basic element 1^x with suitable material, for instance, by laminating a sheet of paper K or the like to said surface with glue. Alternatively, as illustrated in Fig. 6, the surface of the basic element 1^m which is to receive the indicia may have a photo-sensitive coating C on which indicia may be impressed photographically. It will be noted that whether the individual elements are provided with such coatings or not, elements 1^k such as illustrated in Figs. 7 and 8, may be so formed as to have indicia receiving faces 2^m and 2^n at opposite sides. Thus, for example, if one side 2^m has been filled with data or if the information thereon has become obsolete, the element 1^k may be removed from the chain, reversed, again assembled with the other elements, and then provided with fresh indicia on its exposed face 2^n. Further, the surface which has been used once may be coated, for example, by a lamination of paper, so that it may be used a second time. To facilitate the advance of elements like 1^k, said elements may be provided with holes 10, 10, for example, near their opposite ends, for cooperation with pins or lugs provided on the typewriter platen.

In the event that it is not desirable to move a chain of the elements through a typewriter or similar device while impressing the desired indicia thereon, the individual elements, before assembly with others, may be provided with the desired indicia and thereafter hinged together to form a chain.

The dimensions of the elements, at least to some extent, are dictated by the needs of the user as to the amount of data to be recorded on the face of the element, or by the recording means available, or for related reasons. However, it has been determined that elements hinged together to form strips for use with a typewriter of standard dimensions have indicia-receiving faces preferably from 1/12" to 1" in width and up to 12" in length, and should be from 1/16" to 5/32" in thickness.

It should be understood that the present disclosure, insofar as details are concerned, is for purposes of illustration only, and that the invention is inclusive of all modifications and/or equivalents which fall within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A flexible chain capable of being fed through a typewriter or similar device, said chain consisting of a series of like elements hingedly connected together, each element having a body portion of uniform thickness and having at least one substantially rectangular face adapted to receive a typed impression, said impression-receiving face being elongate transversely of the chain and relatively narrow longitudinally of the chain, a tongue projecting from the longitudinal edge of the body portion of each element and a socket in the opposite longitudinal edge of each element, the tongues and sockets being wholly within the thickness of the body portion and constituting means for hinging each element to adjacent elements thereby to form a flexible chain, the parts being so constructed and arranged that if the chain be laid upon a flat support the impression-receiving faces of the several elements will lie in the same plane and form an uninterrupted surface.

2. A flexible chain according to claim 1, wherein each tongue and each socket, respectively, extends uninterruptedly from one end to the other of the body portion of the element.

3. A flexible chain capable of being fed through a typewriter or similar device, said chain consisting of a series of like elements, each having a body portion of uniform thickness and which is rectangular in shape, the body portion being of the order of 1/8 inch in thickness, elongate transversely of the chain and relatively narrow longitudinally of the chain, a socket in one longitudinal edge of the body portion and a tongue projecting from the opposite longitudinal edge of the body portion, the tongue and the socket being wholly within the thickness of the body portion, the tongue and socket being designed to cooperate with the socket and tongue respectively, of adjacent elements thereby hingedly to connect the elements to form a chain in which the entire width of the body portion of each element is always fully exposed to view.

4. A flexible chain according to claim 3, wherein the material of which the element is formed is impervious to moisture and is of a kind which can be extruded to the desired cross-section contour.

5. A flexible chain capable of being fed through a typewriter or similar device, said chain consisting of a series of like elements, each being a strip of sheet material and being elongate transversely of the chain and relatively narrow as compared with its length in a direction longitudinal of the chain, the material being sufficiently strong and tough to assure the continuity of the chain while being moved through the typewriter and being from 2/32 to 5/32 of an inch in thickness, each element having a smooth rectangular face adapted to receive a typed impression as the chain is moved through the typewriter, each element having a socket at one longitudinal edge and a tongue at its opposite longitudinal edge, the tongue and socket being complemental to a socket and tongue respectively, of the next adjacent elements respectively, thereby to form hinge joints uniting adjacent elements to form a flexible chain, each tongue and socket being disposed wholly within the thickness of the element whereby the flexible chain, constituted by the united elements, is nowhere any thicker than any individual one of its constituent elements.

6. A flexible chain designed to be fed through a typewriter or similar device, said chain consisting of a series of like elements hingedly connected together, each element being of a material which is substantially impervious to moisture and sufficiently strong and tough to assure the continuity of the chain when in use, each element being sufficiently narrow and thin to permit the chain to flex about the platen of a typewriter or similar device, each element comprising a body portion which is of approximately rectangular contour in transverse section and each element having at least one face capable of receiving indicia, said indicia-receiving face being elongate transversely of the chain and relatively narrow longitudinally of the chain, a tongue projecting from the longitudinal edge of the body portion of each element, and a socket in the opposite longitudinal edge of each element, the tongues and sockets being wholly within the thickness of the body portion and constituting means for hinging each element to adjacent elements so as to form a flexible chain, the parts being so constructed and arranged that if the chain be laid upon a flat support the indicia-receiving faces of the several elements will lie in the same plane and form a substantially uninterrupted surface.

7. A flexible chain according to claim 6, wherein the indicia-receiving face of each index element consists of a layer of photosensitive material.

8. A flexible chain according to claim 6, wherein the indicia-receiving face of each index element consists of a layer of ink impression-receiving material.

9. A flexible chain according to claim 6, wherein each index element has substantially parallel faces, each of said faces being capable of receiving indicia.

10. A flexible chain according to claim 6, which is